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COCOM Document No. 3503

5th May 1959

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

UNITED STATES PROPOSAL TO EXPORT TEFLON INSULATING TAPE TO POLAND

April 23rd, 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

References COCOM Documents 3402, 3407, 3431, 3449, 3461, 3494.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the Memorandum (COCOM 3494) submitted by the United States Delegation in clarification of the technical name for teflon. He invited Delegates to give the comments of their authorities.

2. The FRENCH Delegate stated that tetrafluoroethylene was a gas which obviously could not take the form of sheets or tape. These were obtained from polymerised tetrafluoroethylene, in other words polytetrafluoroethylene, and it was to this that the United States trade-mark teflon referred. There were two processes for manufacturing tape, both starting with powdery polytetrafluoroethylene, either by calcination at 327°C (softening and soldering together of the grains by pressure) or else in crude form without calcination. The electrical characteristics of certain qualities held good at 200°C. The French authorities could therefore accept the use of the word polytetrafluoroethylene when referring to teflon in the form of insulating tape.

3. The COMMITTEE agreed to accept polytetrafluoroethylene as the correct technical name for teflon insulating tape.

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